SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: I am not a member. (*Interruptions*). It is possible that the Director General, who now comes from Spain, had any say in the matter. It is not my domain to go into those questions ,but whatever it is, I appreciate the sentiments expressed by the hon. Member that these books should be translated in different languager of the Eigth Schedule of the Constitution. This is a different issue altogether. We are confined to the present issue of the UNESCO.

MR. CHAIRMAN: But you are in charges of the human resource development. Would you try to do something in that direction?

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: It is not possible for me to give any commitment. That is why I said I appreciate the sentiments that have been expressed by the hon. Member.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Would you try?

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: I would not like to give any assurance because it would then be difficult for me. I will certainly consider this aspect without treating it as an assurance in any form. It is our national duty, it is not a question of preference of a single individual or otherwise.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: you are spending crores of rupees on other projects.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: I am already drained of my resources so far as money part is concerned. My resources are limited. In fact, I am craving for resources.

SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Sir, India has been member of the Board regularly for two consecutive terms. Will the Government consider seeking UNO cooperation in other programmes of similar nature, like Nehru Centenary Celebration such as to commemorate Gandhiji and other contemporary national leaders, especially with regard to the translation of their writings in other world languages?

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: It is a very general question. As regards the Ministry of Human Resources Development is concerned, it can go to the extent of UNESCO. We had been there for the last two consecutive terms. Hopefully we will also be there in the next term, we are making our trials. On our part, we exert all the influence. I must submit that the External Affairs Ministry also takes care of the centenaries and other celebrations of the great men in different countries.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 324.

Issuance of free passes by Railways

*324 SHRI RAM NARESH YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have given free passes to some special categories of people like freedom fighters, social workers, artists, writers, poets during the period from 1st January, 1988 to 30th June, 1989 on Central/Eastern Railways;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what criteria were followed for granting and issuing of such free passes; and

(d) what is the number of such people who are at present enjoying such free passes on Central, Eastern and other Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

Presumably the reference relates to Complimentary Card Passes granted to non-raliwaymen/ organisations. Such passes are generally issued on an All India basis, centrally by the Ministry of Railways. During the period from 1st January, 1988 to 30th June, 1989, 86 Complimentary card Passes were issued to various categories, other than Freedom Fighters. As regards Freedom Fighters, the Complimentary Card Passes valid over All India Railways were issued by the Divisional/Zonal Railways Headquarters. During the period mentioned, 11,804, such passes were issued to freedom fighters by the Central and Eastern Railways.

Free Complimentary Card Passes were issued based on the guidelines/justification and merits of each case. Passes to freedom fighters were granted as a result of decision taken in this respect in consultation with the Ministry of Home Affairs, and were given to those receiving pension from the Central Government under the Swantantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme.

As on 01-08-1989, 54 persons are enjoying the facility of Complimentary Card Passes.

श्री राम नरेश यादव : महोदय, माननीय मंत्री जी ने अपने बयान में इस बात का उल्लेख किया है कि कुल 11,804 पासेस स्वाधीनता सैनिकों को दिये गये हैं। वैसे जिस तरह से उन्हें यह सम्मान दिया गया है, पूरे देश के स्तर पर निश्चय ही यह बहुत अच्छा काम हुआ है। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि इसमें जो आपके 9 जोंस हैं, रेलवे के, उन जोंस के हिसाब से कितने-कितने पासेस दिये गये हैं और उनका क्या विवरण है? साथ-ही-साथ इसमें जोंस के हिसाब से मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि जैसे कुछ और कोटि के लोगों को भी पास दिये जाते हैं, उस कोटि के लिये सरकार ने क्या क्रायटेरिया रखा है और कोटि को तय करने के लिये क्या कोई कसौटी बनी है, जिसके आधार पर पास दिये जाते हैं?

श्री माधव राव सिंधिया : जो जानकारी माननीय सदस्य चाहते हैं, वह मैं उनको पहुंचा सकता हूं, जोनवाइज आकड़े अभी मेरे पास मौजूद नहीं हैं, परन्तु यह जानकारी मैं आपके पास अवश्य पहुचा दूंगा। जहां तक आपका दूसरा सवाल है, उसके संबंध में कोई कमेटी नहीं है। ऐसे लोग जोकि या तो समाजसेवा करते हैं, कोई चैरिटी आर्गेनाइजेंस के लिये कार्य करते हैं या सोशल वर्क में व्यस्त रहते हैं, ऐसे लोगों को पासेस दिये जाते हैं और मंत्री जी के आदेश से ही दिये जाते हैं। इसके लिये कोई कमेटी नहीं है।

श्री राम नरेश यादव : महोदय, मैं मंत्री जी के उत्तर के संदर्भ में जानना चाहता हूं कि जैसे आपने आर्टिस्टस वगैरह रखे हैं, तो क्या इसमें फोटोग्राफर चित्रकार तथा और लोगों के लिये भी व्यवस्था है? और नहीं है, तो क्या उस पर आनेवाले समय में आप विचार करेंगे? ... (व्यवधान) .... फोटोग्राफर्स हैं, चित्रकार हैं, पत्रकार हैं, क्या उनके बारे में भी विचार करेंगे?

श्री माधव राव सिंधिया : This is decided on a case to case basis. जब कभी नाम या सुझाव हमारे समक्ष आयेगा, उस पर विचार किया जायेगा और अगर महसूस हो कि वाकयी उन व्यक्तियों को पास देने से काफी कुछ लाभ समाज या कला को पहुच सकता है, तो उन्हें अवश्य पास दिया जायेगा।

श्री सभापति : डा० बापू कालदाते

डा० बापू कालदाते : नहीं, मैं नहीं पूछ रहा हूं।

श्री सभापति : आपने भी हाथ उठाया था ?

डा० व पू कालदाते : जैकब साहब का मैं अभिनन्दन कर रहा

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Sir, the hon. Minister has mentioned that there is a provision to issue passes to social workers. What is the definition of a 'social worker' and who are the people who come under this category?

Part (b) of my question is, as far as freedom fighters are concerned, we come across several freedom fighters travelling in the trains. That is good. But at the same time, the railway authorities are ill-treating them and looking towards them with suspicion whenever they undertake their journeys. What steps has the Government taken to avoid this ill-treatment and suspicion towards the freedom fighters who are travelling with these passes.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Sir, I strongly deny that there is any ill-treatment or disrespect shown to freedom fighters by the Indian Railways. They are treated with the greatest respect and if the hon. Member has come across any such case he should bring it to my notice immediately and the strongest possible action will be taken. But by and large, great respect is shown to the freedom fighters by the Indian Railways.

As regards the question about social workers, which the hon. Member has asked, there are many organisations—like there are some for the blind, deaf and dumb, for cancer and various things like that. This is a broad category and it is very difficult to typecast what exactly a 'social worker' is in categorical terms.

SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN: The Minister in his reply stated that social workers include cancer society etc. The most neglected section of our society is the physically handicapped people. They should receive special treatment from the public undertakings like the Railways. In view of the fact that we call ourselves a socialist State, I would like to ask the Minister whether there is a special provision to give free passes to physically handicapped people, and if the provision is there, how many of them are enjoying this benefit.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Some of the physically handicapped come under our scheme of concessions in railway travel. This is a question on permanent passes for certain people who are performing a service to society. Physically handicapped are given certain concessions but that comes under a totally different scheme.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Mr. Chairman, Sir, in part (b) of the answer it has been written:

> "As regards Freedom Fighters, the Complimentary Card Passes valid over All Indian Railways were issued by the Divisional/Zonal Railways Headquarter. During the period mentioned, 11,804 such passes were issued to freedom fighters by the Central and Eastern Railway."

I congratulate the hon. Railway Minister for this. In this regard, I would like to say that most of the period of the freedom fighters' passes has expired, the time has expired. So, may I know from the hon. Minister whether, this year being the Nehru Centenary Year, the railway passes of the freedom fighters can be extended up to the end of the 14th of November, 1990, so that the freedom fighters can enjoy the various programmes and see the different parts of the country? It is our moral responsibility to honour these freedom fighters. So, from that point of view, I would request the hon. Minister to take such action and help the freedom fighters.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: The scheme of passes to respected freedom fighters comes under the Ministry of Home Affairs, and if we receive such a directive from the Ministry of Home Affairs, we will certainly implement such a directive.

श्रीमती सुधा विजय जोशी : मान्यवर, मैं मंत्री महोदय, से जानना चाहती हूं कि जो महिलाओं की जानी मानी अखिल भारतीय स्तर की संस्थायें हैं, उन संस्थाओं के पदाधिकारियों को पासिज दिये जाते थे, लेकिन आजकल यह पासिज नहीं दिये जाते, तो इसका कारण क्या है ?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Sir, actually, one pass has been issued to the General Secretary of the National Federation of Indian Women. This is what I have been able to read immediately from the list. But, Sir, as you know, in 1981 as many as 400 to 500 passes had been issued, and, I think, at that time on certain suggestions received from various quarters inculding some cancelled, and now they are given on a very selected and a very limited way. There are only 54 such passes valid as of today.

श्रीमती सुधा विजय जोशी : सलेक्ट में एक ही संख्या आ जाती है ? . . (व्यवधान)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Because they are being given in such a limited manner, that is why, all organisations obviously cannot be accommodated within the scheme.

SHRI P. K. KUNJACHEN: So many reports have appeared that organising the unorganised sector of workers is a very difficult job. Also to work among them is also difficult. The Government of India has also accepted that position. In that case, will the Government consider issuing railway passes to important leaders, all-India organisation leaders at least, for going round the country and organising the unorganised sector of workers in the country? It is reported that it is very difficult to organise the unorganised sector including the agricultural workers and to fight for their cause.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Sir, as I said, all these passes will be considered on a case-to-case basis. Any suggestion which the hon. Member has, he is certainly welcome to pass on to me and it wil be considered on its merits.

*325. [*The questioners (Shri Mahendra Prasad and Shri Murlidhar Chandrakant Bhandare) were absent. For answers* vide *col.* 35-36 infra]

Accebtance of the recommendations of the National Commission of Self-Employed Women and Women Workers in Informal Sector

*326. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY:

SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA:†

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 118 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 22nd February, 1989 and state:

(a) whether the recommendations contained in the report of the National Commission on Self Employed Women and Women Workers in the Informal Sector have since been considered;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations accepted and those rejected by Government; and

(c) the action taken by Government for the implementation of the recommendations accepted?

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Ashok Nath Verma.